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131-2149

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/TLR  
ACTION MEMORANDUM

REVIEWED BY C. Mass DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) PRELIMINARY ( ) FOR COMMENTS  
( ) FOR ACTION ( ) FOR DISCUSSION IN PART  
( ) FOR INFO ( ) For sensitive info.  
FOI, ID or PA exceptions \_\_\_\_\_

TO: P - Mr. Newson ( ) CLASSIFIED TO \_\_\_\_\_ TO authority to \_\_\_\_\_  
FROM: W/JGP - Harry G. Barnes, Jr. ( ) DECLASSIFIED TO ( ) ID or ( ) C, OADR  
SUBJECT: Russian Language Capability at our Embassy in Kabul

ISSUE

Congressman Derwinski has written you a letter (Tab 2) criticizing the Department for its failure to have a qualified Russian speaker on the present staff at Embassy Kabul. Although Mr. Derwinski is quite correct, we have had qualified Russian speakers at the post as recently as the spring of 1980 and our record on Dari speakers in Kabul, the language of the host country, is excellent.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the proposed response to Congressman Derwinski at Tab 1.

Attachments:

1. Proposed response
2. Letter from Congressman Derwinski, September 19

Drafted: PER/FCA/TL:DJG:mer:in  
9/26/80 x-23308  
S/S# 8020415

Clearances:  
JGP/PER:RDPalmer  
H:RAFlaten.  
NEA/EX:SOArys  
PER/FCA/NEA:PGGriffin  
EWH/SCV:reCombs  
PER/FCA:WJSilva  
PER/FCA/SC:LDJJunior (subs)  
NEA/PAB:EHsok

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